

**NON-APPROVED
MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
COMMUNITY CENTER ANNEX
260 CRAWFORD BOULEVARD
BOCA RATON, FL 33432
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015**

Ronald Betters, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20PM. Roll was called.

Members Present: Ronald L. Betters, Chairman
Gordon Gilbert, Vice Chairman
Peter Boylan
Dr. Dennis R. Frisch
Joseph Good
Hank Kreh
Dr. Trudi N. Stevens

Staff Present: Mickey A. Gomez Recreation Services Director
Buddy Parks Deputy Recreation Services Director
J.D. Varney Recreation Services Superintendent
Duane Dougherty Park Maintenance Supervisor III

Others Present: Members of the public: Dave Johnson and Jim Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION was made by Dr. Frisch, seconded by Mr. Boylan, to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2015 regular meeting as submitted. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

Mention was given to the other related board minutes in the packet.

PURPOSE: Regular monthly meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

From: Ronald L. Betters	To: Mayor and City Council	Re: James A. Rutherford Park/Lake Wyman Park/FIND – Property Improvements
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REPORTS:

1. **Staff Updates – Park Maintenance/Playgrounds – Duane Dougherty**

Mr. Dougherty explained he is a Certified Playground Inspector (CPI). He noted the playgrounds are inspected regularly. There are monthly and daily inspection sheets, and he now uses new software that he can track inspections and enter information on-line on a tablet, while in the field. He said safety is of utmost importance. Mr. Dougherty answered Board questions. He explained that there are guidelines such as how close together playground equipment can be, etc. He explained that new playground equipment is manufactured under specific standards and guidelines, even if the playground is built onsite. He answered that there is no capacity number for children allowed in a playground area.

2. **Department Project Updates – B. Parks**

Mr. Parks said there was not much progress except with **Silver Palm Park Restroom Renovations**. The Notice to Proceed was issued. The contractor has been sending drawings for approval. Dr. Frisch asked about an issue with the pumps at Gumbo Limbo, and Mr. Parks said there was an electrical outage from the FPL feed to the Center. Human error, not the pumping system, caused a loss of some fish. He went on and explained the new pumps, recently installed, have achieved the desired outcome of more oxygen in the water. He cautioned that this upgrade is not the final solution.

3. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report – J. Varney

Mr. Varney said that participation for the first quarter of the fiscal year at the Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex has risen every year for the past four years. He also commented on improving participation figures at the beachfront parks. Mr. Betters asked why the decline in participation for FY 2014-15 for both libraries. Mr. Parks said it may have to do with the method of counting. He said he would provide an explanation at the next meeting. Mr. Gomez reminded everyone that the libraries now have more evening hours. A discussion ensued about participation and permit sales at the tennis centers. Mr. Varney advised the Board that tennis center participation figures include both permit holders and non-permit holders.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. **Hillsboro/El Rio Park – South Side Development** **(Post P&R Board Tour Discussion)**

The Board Members were impressed with the site. They expressed that this park will be very well used. Mr. Kreh asked about any soil issue and/or percolation of the soil in Hillsboro/El Rio Park-South Side. Mr. Parks said it was an environmental issue and he will speak with Mo Morel (City Engineer). He will let the Board know what he finds out at the next meeting. Mr. Parks answered Mr. Good that the wetlands would be designated as such and be preserved. They discussed a crossover which was a previous stumbling block for this property. A comment was made that this would also be a good area for another dog park.

2. Other Comments from Tour

Concerning artificial turf, Mr. Gomez said he saw the field in Weston made of corn husk and coconut and offered to take Board Members to Weston to see the field.

Mr. Gomez spoke about the Bark Beach. He reported that 875 resident and 8 non-resident total permits were sold for FY 2014/15.

STAFF COMMENTS:

1. Employees of the Quarter – Fourth Quarter 2014

Mr. Varney spoke about the Motivation/Positive Attitude Leadership Award for Tyler Gray. He said that a group reserved the Field House for a dance for children with special needs. The DJ that was hired got into a car accident and was not able to make the dance. Tyler brought out the Sugar Sand Field House's sound system and downloaded Pandora which allowed them to play music of their choice. Everyone was very happy. Tyler is very motivated and excels with customer service and deserves the award for motivation/positive attitude.

Mr. Parks spoke about the Innovation Leadership Award for Jessica Bradbury. Recently, Jessica took over the major responsibility of coordinating the characters for our October "Halloween In the Hammock" event. She recruited volunteers for this event and wrote new and edited existing scripts for the characters. She also proposed a new theme for the event (Invasive Species) and associated characters. Jessica's innovation was a large part of the success of the event. She deserves the award for innovation.

Mr. Parks spoke about the Communication Leadership Award for Kristin Child. Kristen has taken on many additional duties including the coordination of Gumbo Limbo's Annual Halloween in the Hammock Event and the new Halloween in the Garden event. Two highly successful events this year were due to Kristin's superstar communication skills. She deserves the award for communication.

Mr. Parks spoke about the Commitment Leadership Award for Jose Pineda. Jose works incredibly hard and puts in long hours. On Snow Day, he was the first person at work to meet the ice vendor for making the snow. He worked the entire event. He was the last to leave after clearing all tables, tents, securing fencing, washing down snow, and locking up the building. He is always dependable and deserves winning the award for commitment.

Mr. Parks spoke about the Teamwork Leadership Award for Joe Morgan, Bernice Luzincourt and Yolanda Smith. All three were willing to help out another facility when there was a staff shortage. They worked at Sugar Sand Park's Carousel and other areas in the park. Their teamwork allows them to stretch their limits and help carry the load. They deserve this award for teamwork.

2. Director's Report

Mr. Gomez spoke about non-resident fees as they pertain to youth sports. For registration period FY 2013-14, 35% of 7,050 participants were non-residents, based upon total registrations. Mr. Gomez answered Dr. Frisch that the Recreation Services Department does not collect non-resident fees from High 5 and TOPSoccer. Mr. Kreh suggested adding COBRA's (City of Boca Raton Athletics's) numbers in and Mr. Gomez said he would have that for the next meeting. Mr. Gomez said the Recreation Services Department collected \$82,450 in revenue, while there is \$10,110 in uncollected revenue. The uncollected revenue is being pursued. Dr. Frisch asked about Pop Warner Football and why so many were non-resident members. Mr. Gomez will check this out and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Varney provided an update to a discussion at a previous meeting regarding the need to replace the Meadows Park Pool. At the prior meeting, two parents of Mantas Swim Team participants expressed an interest in replacing the Meadows Park Pool with a pool at which the Mantas can hold meets. Mr. Varney told the Board that he recently met with both parents. He said he told them of recent renovation work at the Meadows Park Pool and of how the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) works. He said that a new City pool will be submitted for consideration in the Long-Term Outlook portion of the CIP.

Mr. Gomez showed the Board samples of organic infill. He also brought a sample of Matrix Turf. He explained the steps that the City of Weston is taking in replacing grass fields with artificial turf. Discussion ensued about the questionable link between cancer and the crumb rubber that is used on some artificial turf fields.

3. Various Letters of Commendation

Self-explanatory.

BOARD MEMBER INTEREST INITIATIVES & COMMENTS:

Mr. Good said while he was out, he read the minutes in the packages from previous minutes.

NEXT MEETINGS: March 3, 2015 – George Snow Park
April 7, 2015 – Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Mr. Boylan, seconded by Mr. Good, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50PM.
MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Arlene Moskowitz, Recorder

